(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether country is now considering on becoming member of the said mechanism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. Tsunami Warning systems exist for Pacific rim nations. Tsunamis are generated very frequently in the Pacific Ocean and circum-Pacific countries are prone to these. India is not a member of Pacific Tsunami warning mechanism.

(c) Merely joining the Pacific warning system will not help India because for forecasting of tsunami waves in the Indian Ocean, we need to emplace sensors and related systems in the Indian Ocean and along the Indian coastline. Also, it may be noted that the percentage of false alarms from PTWC is about 70% which is not acceptable for Indian situation considering high population density and coastal operations.

(d) No, Madam. However India is setting up a Tsunami and Storm Surges Forecasting and Early Warning System suitable for the Indian Ocean.

Development of Vegetation in Coastal Areas

2557. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the impact of the Tsunami waves was less in the coastal areas where bushes 'Kandal Forest' were existing on the coast;

(b) if so, whether Government would evolve any comprehensive plan to protect their vegetation;

(c) the development of bushes and Kandal Forests along the coastal area; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. It has been observed during the post-Tsunami studies in Andaman waters, by Fishery and Oceanographic Research Vessel-Sagar Sampada, a vessel belonging to Department of Ocean Development, that areas having thick mangrove vegetation are less affected by Tsunami.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has been intimated about this observation for necessary action.

Early Warning System at Visakhapatnam

2558. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Visakhapatnam has been selected by Tsunami expert to install an early warning system that would have network connection with 36 countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the earlier offer to set up a Tsunami warning system in India was rejected due to lack of funds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Coastal Monitoring and Prediction System

2559. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coastal Monitoring and Prediction system (COMAPS) has been launched by Government for conduct of studies in the coastal regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the organisational structure handling the COMAPS and the studies, salient features of the system and objective behind its launching;

(c) the benefits, if any, derived by studies carried out; and